



Validation System in Lifelong Learning Experiences of Youth Volunteering



Newsletter

September 2016

VALLEY at a glance

VALLEY stands for Validation System in Lifelong Learning Experiences of Youth Volunteering and is a 2-year project (01.03.2015 - 28.02.2017) funded by the ERASMUS+ Programme. The project seeks to provide new resources to identify and recognise skills and competences developed by young people during their volunteering experience.

The project will maximize the transferability of the learning to other dimensions of young people's life to help understand the global benefits of volunteering in terms of social integration

During the project lifetime, young people from the six partner countries (Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Romania, UK) will take part in volunteering activities applying the validation system LEVEL5 – a flexible validation system developed specifically for validating learning outcomes in non-formal and informal learning settings. LEVEL5 has been successfully applied in numerous non-formal and informal learning projects and in the previous project RIVER (www.river-project.eu) that addressed senior volunteers.

What has been achieved so far?

From 9th to 13th of May, 2016, the training course for staff and professionals from partner and volunteering organisations took place in Timisoara (Romania), hosted by APOWER.

On occasion of the training course participants from Germany, Austria, Italy, France, UK and Romania had the opportunity to discuss innovative ways to raise awareness on the topic of evidencing and validating learning outcomes gained through volunteering activities in terms of personal and social competences.

In particular the course was aimed at creating a better understanding and know-how on the assessment, validation and documentation of competence developments in youth volunteering (especially concerning NEETs) through a comparison of the different national situations, good practice examples as well as brainstorming and workshops on important issues for volunteering work such as mentoring and volunteers' self-reflection through individual learning projects.



The group had the opportunity to do a study visit at Casa Faenza, a support and therapy centre for autistic children, which so far is the first one of this kind in Romania. The study visit gave very interesting insights in how the centre involved volunteers in their daily work.

The study visit was followed by extensive sessions about the LEVEL 5 methodology, which represents the VALLEY validation system to assess and document individual competence developments for the three dimensions: knowledge, skills and attitude along five ascending quality levels



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VALLEY Piloting

After the training course each partner organisation will test the developed VALLEY materials and learning platform as well as the VALLEY validation approach with a group of young volunteers in each partner country during six months.

The VALLEY platform offers a range of materials that shall support the piloting by providing information on the VALLEY validation approach, the competences that are enhanced in volunteering and also mentoring guidelines for those that support volunteers in their volunteering activities. By registering on the **VALLEY platform**, both volunteers and volunteers' organisations can access the materials. The platform is also linked to the LEVEL5 software that can be used to document the assessment processes of competence developments and generate the LEVEL5 certificates.

At the end of the piloting, each partner will organise a national workshop, where involved volunteers will share their experience with other interested young people.



VALLEY Award

On 15th September the VALLEY partners launched the campaign for the VALLEY Award on innovative initiatives and activities that promote the development of competences in an innovative way and include practical cases or at least ideas on how learning outcomes and competence developments within volunteering work can be assessed and evidenced also beyond the walls of formal education.

The winners will have the chance to attend the final conference in Marseille (France) on 16th February, 2017, hosted by Eurocircle.

The conference will give the opportunity to the participants, to present their project or idea to an international audience of experts, volunteering organisations, and relevant entities/personalities in the field.

Find all details about the award here: www.valley-eu.org/award/



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